

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 3 NOVEMBER 2005

PRIORITISATION OF COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To enable the Committee to consider priorities to be applied in dealing with Community Grant applications received from local organisations during the 2006/2007 financial year, and beyond.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** This Committee, on 8 September 2005, and on the matter being raised by the Chair, agreed to remit to the Officers concerned to prepare proposals for the prioritisation of Community Grant applications in future, on the basis of the established grant categories, and to include consideration of grants to Older People's Organisations in respect of social and recreational purposes which are currently disbursed on a per capita basis.
- 2.2** The origin of this issue lies in the significant difficulties which the Local Committee have encountered, increasingly, in recent years in determining applications for Community Grants, as the result of the considerable amount by which the value of grant applications received has exceeded the allocation available.
- 2.3** It is considered that the establishment of priorities by the Local Committee will assist Officers in determining final recommendations relative to grant applications submitted, for consideration by the Committee.

3. PRIORITISATION OF APPLICATIONS

- 3.1** There are two stages involved in consideration of this matter. Firstly, it is necessary to establish a valid reference point, upon which prioritisation can be based and it is suggested that this should be determined having regard to the percentage of each year's total allocation for grants which was disbursed to the established categories in recent years. For this purpose, Table 1, below, sets out the average percentage of grants awarded to local organisations over the four year period covering the financial years 2002/2003 through to 2005/2006 in each of the recognised categories, except for Community Associations, Community Councils and Tenants'/Residents' Groups, grants to these organisations having been reallocated to the remaining categories, according to the purpose of the application:-

TABLE 1

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AVERAGE PERCENTAGE</u>
Arts and Cultural	5.4
Community Safety	0.9
Disability	13.4
Early Education & Childcare	1.1
Economic Development	0.0
Environmental	7.0
Ethnic Minorities	1.4
Health Issues	3.5
Heritage	0.4
Leisure Activities	9.2
Older People	33.5
Social Inclusion	7.1
Sport	3.9
Unemployment	0.0
Women's Issues	2.7
Young People	10.5
TOTAL	100%

- 3.2** It is further suggested, in order to facilitate and incorporate a degree of flexibility in managing prioritisation, that it would be desirable to reduce the number of categories and that certain of the categories referred to in Table 1 above, be amalgamated. Accordingly, Table 2, below, identifies, over the four year period covering the financial years 2002/2003 through to 2005/2006, the average percentage of grants awarded to local organisations, on the basis of proposed amalgamated categories:-

TABLE 2

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AVERAGE PERCENTAGE</u>
Older People	33.5
Young People (Young People and Early Education)	11.6
Leisure, Sport and Cultural (Leisure, Sport, Arts and Cultural)	18.5
Disability	13.4

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AVERAGE PERCENTAGE</u>
Environmental/Heritage (Environmental and Heritage)	7.4
Health/Well Being (Health, Community Safety)	4.4
Social Inclusion (Economic Development, Ethnic Minorities, Women's Issues, Unemployment and Social Inclusion)	11.2
TOTAL	100%

3.3 The second stage of consideration of this matter relates to the priority weighting to be afforded to each of the identified categories, i.e. the percentage of the annual grant budget to be allocated to each category. The Committee might take the view that the percentage allocations should remain as indicated in Table 2, since this reflects the implied priority for grants from the different organisations within the local community, according to established demand in previous years. Alternatively, the Committee may wish to take the opportunity to alter the percentages in order to target funding to those types of organisation which it is felt should be afforded greater priority compared to others. Clearly, an increase in weighting in respect of one category would require a corresponding reduction in another.

3.4 In the event that the funding allocated to a particular category or categories is not fully utilised, it is suggested that the unused balance be redistributed, proportionately to the remaining categories.

4. PER CAPITA AWARDS TO OLDER PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS

4.1 Since commencement of the Community Grants Scheme in 1996, this Committee have adhered to the approach that Community Grants to Older People's organisations in respect of social and recreational purposes during the year be made on a per capita basis according to the number of members which an organisation has.

4.2 As can be seen from Table 1 and Table 2, above, over the last four years, Older People's organisations have been allocated just over 1/3 of the total grants allocation. While the prioritisation arrangements which are the subject of this report give the Local Committee the opportunity to continue to fund Older People's Groups, and specify at what level, it is suggested that there is an opportunity at this stage to focus the targeting of grant funding to such organisations for social and recreational purposes more precisely.

4.3 The current per capita methodology takes account of only one factor in determining grant awards, i.e. the number of members which an organisation has. No account is taken of a range of other factors which are normally considered when a Community Grant application is being determined, i.e. number of members participating in events; cost of events; contribution to the

cost by the organisation; value for money of the activity; the organisation's ability to fundraise and/or funds held.

- 4.4** Bearing in mind the continuing high level of demand for grants which there is likely to continue to be from local organisations in future, it is prudent to endeavour to ensure that grant awards are precisely targeted in accordance with the priorities determined by the Committee and also the established criteria. Accordingly, it is suggested that, in future, applications from Older People's organisations in respect of social and recreational purposes be assessed by Officers, and a grant award determined by Committee, on the individual merits of each application and in accordance with the established criteria. In the overall context of the matters under consideration in this report, the Committee would still have the opportunity to ensure that the appropriate level of priority is afforded to Older People's organisations through the mechanism discussed in Section 3, above.

5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1** As the Members of the Committee are aware, Community Grant awards to Young People's Uniformed organisations in respect of running costs are determined by the Committee on a formula basis according to membership numbers. Although this issue is not part of the remit given by the Local Committee at its last meeting, it is suggested that the points made in Paragraph 4.3 and Paragraph 4.4, above, relative to the award of per capita grants to Older People's organisations apply equally to grants to Young People's Uniformed Organisations in respect of running costs, and therefore should be considered by the Committee. In order to ensure the precise targeting of limited resources, it is suggested that, in future, grant applications under this heading should be dealt with, each on its individual merits, and in accordance with the established criteria.

6. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** None arising directly from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) agree that, in future, prioritisation of Community Grant applications be based on the seven categories and other arrangements detailed in Section 3 of the report; and determine the percentage of the total funding available to the Committee for Community Grants each year which is to be allocated to each of these categories;
 - (ii) that, in future, applications for Community Grants from Older People's Organisations in respect of social and recreational activities be dealt with, each on its individual merits and in accordance with the established criteria and priorities determined by the Committee; and

- (iii) that, in future, applications from Younger People's Uniformed Organisations in respect of running costs be determined each on its individual merits and in accordance with the established criteria and priorities determined by the Committee.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

11 October 2005

SN/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576135.

Implementation Officer: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.